

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously presented): An inducer disposed upstream of a main impeller, characterized in that a blade angle distribution on said tip from the blade leading edge to a blade trailing edge is such that a rate of reduction of said blade angle toward said blade leading edge is greater upstream of a region in the vicinity of a throat than downstream of the region in the vicinity of said throat, and a rate of change of said blade angle is smaller in a range from the region in the vicinity of the throat toward a region in the vicinity of a distance 0.9 in a non-dimensional flow direction than upstream of the region in the vicinity of said throat.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented): The inducer according to claim 1, characterized in that a blade angle distribution on said hub from the blade leading edge to the blade trailing edge has an inflection point in the vicinity of the throat, and is such that a rate of change of the blade angle is small upstream of the throat, and a rate of increase of the blade angle is large along the direction of a flow downstream of said throat.

4. (Previously presented): A pump with an inducer, characterized in that said pump having a main impeller mounted on a rotatable shaft; and

said inducer according to any one of claim 1 or 3 is disposed upstream of said main impeller so as to align its axis with an axis of said main impeller.